



M E D I A R E L E A S E

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INSURANCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
OCTOBER 12, 2006

CONTACT: KELLY M. BROCKMAN
615.741.6007 (OFFICE)

TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON FIRE FIGHTING RECEIVES INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION

Nashville, TN.- Following approval by the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC), Tennessee's fire fighting professionals will enjoy international recognition for their certifications from the Tennessee Commission on Fire Fighting Personnel Standards and Education.

The Commission's initial accreditation was unanimously approved at the IFSAC Board of Governors' meeting on Sept. 23, in Greensboro, N.C. The Commission's certification process must be re-evaluated every five years in order to maintain international accreditation from IFSAC.

The Commission received accreditation for the certification levels of Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations; Fire Fighter I and II; Fire Officer I; and Fire Instructor I and II. Another significant benefit of the accreditation and certification process is the assurance of consistent training and testing of firefighters and emergency responders who protect the citizens of Tennessee.

A team comprised of IFSAC representatives from accredited agencies in Maryland, North Carolina, and Oklahoma visited Tennessee and reviewed certification procedures, written tests, and manipulative skills testing.

IFSAC currently provides accreditation to entities that certify the competency of and issue certificates to individuals who pass examinations based on the National Fire Protection Association fire service professional qualifications and other standards approved by IFSAC members. There are 63 Certificate Assembly member entities throughout the world having 557 accredited levels. There are 39 members of the IFSAC Degree Assembly that offer fire science or related academic programs at colleges and universities.

"Accreditation status provides Tennessee fire fighters with certification portability. Being internationally accredited ensures that first responder the certification received by Tennessee fire fighters will be recognized in other states and countries," said Commission Director Terry Woody. "At the same time the review process ensures the Commission is operating a fair, credible, and valid training and certification program."

Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute Manager Lawrence Preston served as leader of the IFSAC site team evaluator who reviewed the Tennessee Commission's programs. "It is obvious that a great deal of forethought and hard work went into this program and members of the Commission should be commended on this work," Preston said.

###

DAVY CROCKETT TOWER, 5TH FLOOR
500 JAMES ROBERTSON PARKWAY
NASHVILLE, TN 37243
615.741.2241